

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

PERSONAL

March 17, 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE ALLEN W. DULLES
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Here is the draft which I mentioned to you on the telephone. Subject, of course, to the President's wishes I am inclined to recommend this device rather than informal statements by spokesmen, as being more authoritative on the questions dealt with.

I should be grateful for your comments and know the Secretary will be too, when I have an opportunity to take it up with him.

Another possibility might be to suggest that Jim Hagerty use, with the President's endorsement, a version transposed into the third person.


Joseph W. Greene, Jr.

Enclosure:

Suggested letter.

March 17, 1959

SUGGESTED LETTER

Dear Mr. President:

My doctors tell me that the schedule of radiation treatments, which they had planned for me following their finding that I have had a recurrence of abdominal malignancy, has now been completed. Accordingly, I expect to leave the hospital in a few days and return home.

I am, however, advised that a further few weeks of medical observation will be required to assess the results of the radiation treatments. It also seems desirable that, as foreseen in my letter to you of February 9, I devote a few weeks to physical recuperation. With your approval, I should like to have this respite in a warmer climate away from Washington.

In the circumstances, I do not feel that I should plan to take an active part in the international meetings which are planned for the next several weeks here in Washington. Also, I should like to defer during this period of medical observation and recuperation the decision which, as you and I have agreed, will be made as soon as reasonable as to my resumption of the duties of Secretary of State. Meanwhile, I would, of course, continue to be available for consultation with you and with my associates in the Department of State, particularly with reference to the grave problems now confronting our alliance in Europe.

S:JNGreene, Jr. :jm